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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/186,064 11/04/98 TOOMBS

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EXAMINER

MYERS, P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2781

DATE MAILED:

10/02/00

13

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/186,084

Applicant(s)

TOMBS ET AL

Examiner

PAUL R MYERS

Group Art Unit

2281

☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 9-26-00☐ This action is FINAL.☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire _____ month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claim

☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).☐ All ☐ Some* ☒ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been☐ received.☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s) _____☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

— SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES —

Art Unit: 2781

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.
2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-27 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.
3. Applicants petition to correct the filing date has been noted. Application was forwarded to office of petitions upon completion of this office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1, 10-13 and 22-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Iijima PN 5,349,649.

Art Unit: 2781

In regards to claims 1, 11 and 23: Iijima teaches A memory card (1) for connecting to a master (7), comprising: a plurality of storage elements (2,3,40); and an interface (5) for communicating with the master (7), wherein data (data) and commands (command) are transferred between the card (1) and the master (7); wherein said card (1) is capable of adapting to the master running one protocol (Protocol A or Protocol B) from a plurality of protocols (A or B).

In regards to claims 10 and 22: Iijima teaches the card is a memory storage device.

In regards to claims 12 and 24-25: Iijima teaches the reason for his invention is for connecting with masters that can only communicate in one protocol.

In regards to claim 13: Iijima teaches the adaptation of the card to the master being transparent to the master.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 2-9, 14-21 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iijima PN 5,349,649.

Art Unit: 2781

In regards to claims 2-4, 14-16 and 26-27: Iijima teaches handling plural protocols. Iijima does not teach which specific protocols are supported. Official notice is taken that the MultiMediaCard protocol and the Serial Peripheral Interface protocols are well known standard protocols. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to support these protocols because this would have made Iijima's card compliant to standards.

In regards to claims 5, 8, 9, 17, 20 and 21: Iijima teaches a common bus for transferring command and data. Iijima does not expressly teach the use of a select signal from the master. The serial peripheral interface (SPI) protocol is well known and described above. The SPI protocol includes select (CE), Data-in (SDI), Data-out (SDO) and Clock (SCLK) lines.

In regards to claims 6 and 18: Iijima teaches not needing a select signal. MultiMediaCard protocol does not require a select.

In regards to claims 7 and 19: Iijima teaches the bus including command, data, and clock lines.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

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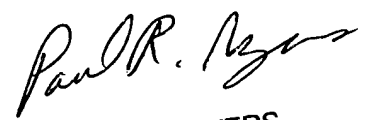
PN 5,537,360 to Jones et al teaches the signal lines of the Serial Peripheral Interface (SPI) Protocol.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul R. Myers whose telephone number is (703) 305-9656. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh, can be reached on (703) 305-9648. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-9051.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.

Paul R. Myers
September 29, 2000


PAUL R. MYERS
PRIMARY EXAMINER